

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 21 and 24 are amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11, 21, and 24 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

In item 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 11 is allowed. In item 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 1-10, 21, and 24 would be allowable if claims 1, 21, and 24 are rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph set forth in the current Office Action. (Action at page 4).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Statement on Substance of Interview

An Examiner-Initiated interview was conducted on February 4, 2008. During the interview, the Examiner (after reviewing the Amendment filed on December 17, 2007) suggested amendments to the claims and that after entry of such amendments the case would be recommended for allowance.

Using claim 1 as an example, the Examiner suggested amending claim 1 so that the feature of "eliminating at least one power supply pad," recited in claim 1, for example, would be better connected with the recited feature of "determining whether the current value . . ."

In the recited feature "eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination," the Examiner also suggested amending claim 1, for example, and either deleting the term "adding" or alternately changing the term "adding" to --modifying--.

In addition, the Examiner suggested features recited in the preamble of claim 1, for example, should be brought into the body of the claim.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the opportunity to conduct the interview and for the Examiner's thoughtful suggestions.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 is amended for form herein to recite a method for provisionally determining quantity and positions of a plurality of power supply pads when designing a semiconductor integrated circuit, the method comprising: "performing a power supply network

analysis of the a core section, which is provided with a plurality of nodes and the plurality of power supply pads, of the-semiconductor integrated circuit, with each power supply pad being connected to the core section via an IO buffer, wherein each IO buffer has a predetermined current capacity, based on power consumption information of the core section and power supply wire resistance information, which includes resistances between the nodes, to calculate voltage values of the nodes; . . . and eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination, wherein the eliminating comprises eliminating at least one power supply pad when the determined current value of each of the power supply pads does not exceed the current capacity of the associated IO buffer." Independent claims 21 and 24 are similarly amended.

Claim 11 is amended herein to correct a formality. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Entry of Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Applicant requests entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because it is believed that the amendment of claims 1, 11, 21 and 24 puts this application into condition for allowance. Further, as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.116 (b):

(1) An amendment may be made...complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action; (2) An amendment presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal may be admitted.

That is, the Amendments made herein are as suggested by the Examiner during the interview and discussed in the current Office Action. The amendments of claims 1, 11, 21, and 24 should not entail any further search by the Examiner

Item 2: Objection to claim 11

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claim 11 because of an informality. (Action at page 2).

Claim 11 is amended herein to address the Examiner's concern. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Item 5: Rejection of claims 1-10, 21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

In items 6-13 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-10, 21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The rejection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts claims 1, 21 , and 24 recite

step 1) " eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination", which is defected incorporating of further limit with the step ii) eliminating at least one power supply pad when the current value

of each of the power supply pads does exceed the current capacity of the associated IO buffer," if the adding process recited in step i) to be treated, that makes a gap or missing steps/limitations between the step i) and step II.

(Action at page 3).

Independent claim 1 is amended herein, in a manner as discussed during the interview, to recite a method including "...eliminating or adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination, wherein the eliminating comprises eliminating at least one power supply pad when the determined current value of each of the power supply pads does not exceed the current capacity of the associated IO buffer." That is, claim 1 is amended to recite a method either "...eliminating ...at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination, wherein the eliminating comprises eliminating at least one power supply pad when the determined current value of each of the power supply pads does not exceed the current capacity of the associated IO buffer" or "...adding at least one power supply pad in accordance with the result of the determination..." Independent claims 21 and 24 are similarly amended.

Applicants submit these amendments address the Examiner's concern and independent claims 1, 21 and 24 (and respective dependent claims 2-10) comply with U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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